



April 28, 2022 Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

What You Need to Know

April 28, 2022 Progress Report

- At the direction of the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) is making steady progress in bringing the technical and operational resources that will assist Baltimore City more efficiently treat wastewater at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- MES operations and maintenance staff are attending joint state-city "huddles" with Back River supervisors to discuss equipment status for each area of responsibility.
 - The "huddles" ensure the lines of communication are open between the state and city, and the different sections at the plant.
- Progress continues at Back River as MES and Baltimore City work together to bring more of the primary settling tanks (PSTs) online.
 - Currently, two of the 11 PSTs are fully operational and one is partially operational. The remaining seven are either being cleaned, assessed or rehabbed.
 - The sludge removal and cleaning of four of the PSTs was completed and MES and the city are procuring and awaiting the delivery of materials for rehab. Sludge removal and cleaning is being scheduled for the remaining four PSTs.
 - MES is working to identify an appropriate facility that has the capacity and permits to accept the sludge.
- Fully operational pumps within the treatment system are critically important.
 - Pumps are being inventoried and inspected, and then either rebuilt or replaced, as appropriate.
 - Future reports will include their status of repair or replacement.
- Sludge dewatering is handled through a centrifuge.
 - Currently, three of the four centrifuges are operating, but are operating in manual mode. They will need to be fixed so that they operate in an automatic mode.